

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed from the Patent and Trademark Office on August 2, 2007, which has a shortened statutory period set to expire November 2, 2007.

Drawings

Figs. 6, 8A and 8B are objected to in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Submitted herewith under a separate paper are Replacement Sheets for Figs. 6, 8A and 8B that address the issues raised by the Examiner. No new matter is entered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Claims

Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are pending in the above-identified application, Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22, 25-27, 29, 31 and 32 are withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 15-19 are canceled. Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 102 in the pending Office Action.

In the current paper, Claims 1, 20, and 28 are amended to clarify that which Applicants believe is their invention, and Claim 24 is canceled. Claims 2-5, 9, 10, 12, 21, 23 and 30 remain as filed. No new matter is entered. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-5, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Simmons (U.S. Patent No. 6,947,288).

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that both the "upper cover" and the "lower cover" are "plastic", which is

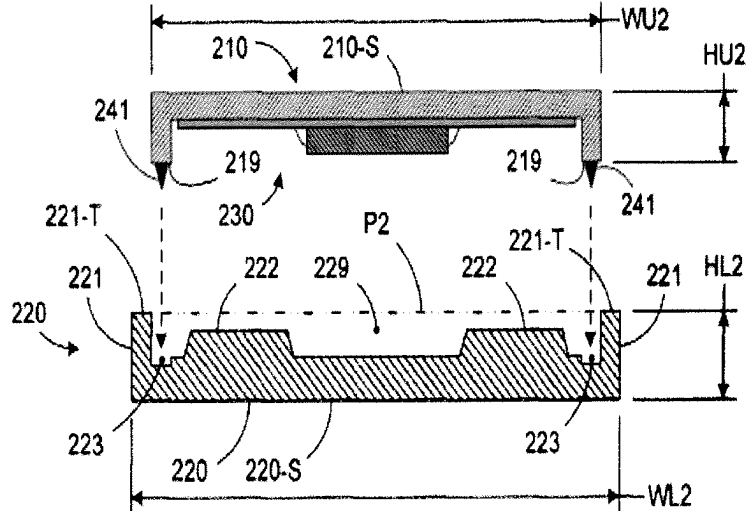
consistent with previous recitations in Claim 20 and is supported in the specification.

Claim 1 is also amended to recite (in pertinent part):

...the plurality of lower mating features being inboard of the at least two lower sidewalls and disposed on an interior surface of said lower plastic cover, wherein said lower sidewalls are separated by a width that is wider than an external surface-to-external surface distance of said upper sidewalls, whereby when said upper plastic cover is mounted on said lower plastic cover, both said upper sidewalls are disposed between said lower sidewalls with said upper mating features contacting lower mating features...

Support for the above-quoted limitation is provided, for example, in Applicants' paragraph 0027 (page 6) and Fig. 2B, which are copied below for reference:

[0027] Unlike in conventional card-type device housings (such as depicted in Figs. 1A-1B), lower sidewalls 221 are not designed to be directly attached to upper sidewalls 211. Instead, lower sidewalls 221 are sized and positioned to define a pocket 229 that is larger than the outer dimension of upper sidewalls 211 (i.e., the external surface-to-external surface distance WU2 between sidewalls 211). Meanwhile, lower cover 220 also includes mating features 223 that are inboard of sidewalls 221 (i.e., are within pocket 229).



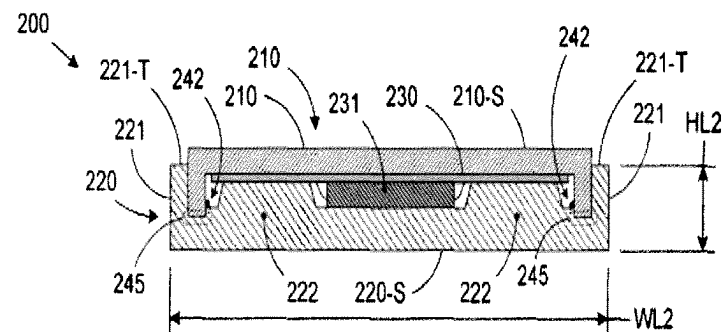
In addition, Claim 1 is amended to recite (in pertinent part):

...wherein when the plurality of upper mating features are subsequently ultrasonically welded to the plurality of

lower mating features, the upper and lower mating features are melted together along an interior seam located at a base of said lower sidewalls...

Support for and a benefit of the above-quoted limitation is provided, for example, in Applicants' paragraph 0035 (page 8) and Fig. 2C, which are copied below for reference:

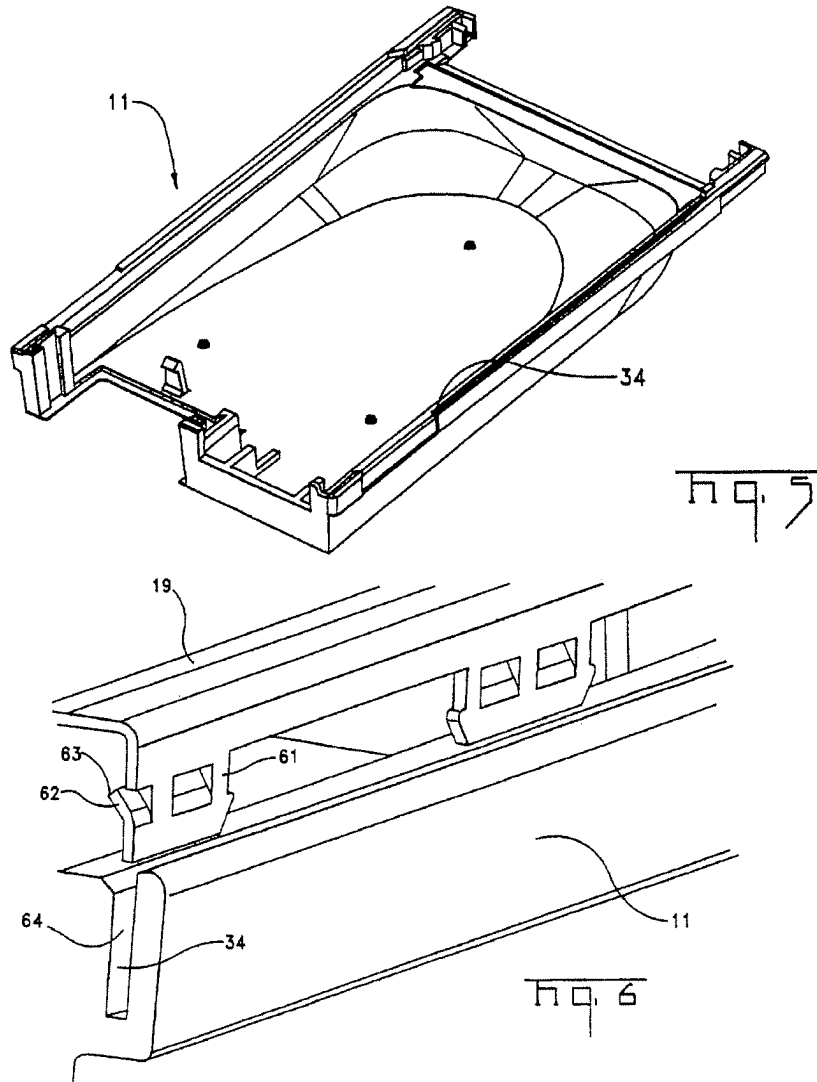
[0035] Note that because the actual bonding between upper cover 210 and lower cover 220 is performed at an interior seam 245 (i.e., a joint inboard of sidewalls 221), any bonder overflow 242 is contained within apparatus 200, thereby preventing the overflow material from causing (external) dimensional problems. Optional receiving features 223 can further minimize the possibility of external bonding material overflow by providing specific regions into which bonder overflow 242 can flow.



As amended, Claim 1 is distinguished over Simmons at least because Simmons fails to teach or suggest both an "upper cover" and a "lower cover" that are "plastic", as recited in amended Claim 1.

Further, Simmons fails to teach a structure "wherein said lower sidewalls are separated by a width that is wider than an external surface-to-external surface distance of said upper sidewalls, whereby when said upper plastic cover is mounted on said lower plastic cover, both said upper sidewalls are disposed between said lower sidewalls with said upper mating features contacting lower mating features", and "wherein when the plurality of upper mating

features are subsequently ultrasonically welded to the plurality of lower mating features, the upper and lower mating features are melted together along an interior seam located at a base of said lower sidewalls", as recited in amended Claim 1. Instead, Simmons teaches a structure wherein top panel 11 includes a channel 34 formed in an outer peripheral wall (see Simmons' Fig. 5, copied below), and that the tabs 61 of opposing panel 19 are received in the channel 34 and do not form a seam "located at a base of said lower sidewalls", as recited in Claim 1 (see Simmons' Fig. 6, also copied below):



Claims 2-5, 10 and 12 are dependent from Claim 1, and are therefore distinguished over Simmons for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 102.

Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claim 9

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Ramey (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,628).

Claim 9 is dependent from Claim 20, and are therefore distinguished over Simmons for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 1. Ramey teaches a metal cover similar to that of Simmons, and fails to overcome the deficiencies of Simmons that are set forth above. Accordingly, it would not have been possible to combine the teachings of Simmons and Ramey to produce the structure of Claim 9.

Claims 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30

Claims 20, 21, 23, 24, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmons in view of Kung (U.S. Patent No. 5,505,628).

Similar to Claim 1 (discussed above), Claim 20 is amended to recite (in pertinent part):

...an upper plastic cover having a planar upper surface and upper sidewalls extending perpendicularly from the planar upper surface, the upper sidewalls having

respective lower ends and being separated by a first width; and

a lower plastic cover, the lower plastic cover comprising a plurality of lower sidewalls extending substantially perpendicularly from a bottom exterior surface of the lower plastic cover, the plurality of lower sidewalls defining a pocket having a width that is wider than an external surface-to-external surface distance of said upper sidewalls, whereby when said upper plastic cover is mounted on said lower plastic cover, both said upper sidewalls are disposed between said lower sidewalls,

wherein the upper plastic cover is permanently attached to the lower cover at a seam within the pocket such that the lower ends of the upper sidewalls are attached to an interior surface of said lower plastic cover inboard of said lower sidewalls ...

Support for and the benefit of the above-quoted limitation related to the recitation is similar to that provided above with reference to Claim 1.

As amended Claim 20 is distinguished over Simmons for reasons similar to those provided with reference to Claim 1, and Applicants contend that Kung fails to teach or suggest the deficiencies of Simmons that are described above.

Claims 21, 23, 28 and 30 are dependent from Claim 20, and are therefore distinguished over Simmons and Kung for at least the reasons provided above with reference to Claim 20. Claim 24 is canceled, thereby obviating the rejection directed to this claim. Claim 28 is amended to depend from Claim 20.

For the above reasons, Applicants' respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 103.

Request for Reinstatement of Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22,
25-27, 29, 31 and 32

Should the Examiner decide to allow Claims 1 and 20 over the cited prior art, Applicant respectfully requests reinstatement of withdrawn Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22, 25-27, 29, 31 and 32, which depend from Claims 1 and 20, and remain consistent with the amendments to Claims 1 and 20. Applicants respectfully point out that Claims 22, 25, 26, 27 and 29 are amended to conform to the amendment to Claim 20 in anticipation to their reinstatement. No new matter is entered.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 20, 21, 23, 28 and 30 are in condition for allowance, and requests reinstatement of Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 14, 22, 25-27, 29, 31 and 32. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick T. Bever". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and a cursive "B".

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